

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3207

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the preservation and interpretation of the historic sites of the Manhattan Project for potential inclusion in the National Park System.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the preservation and interpretation of the historic sites of the Manhattan Project for potential inclusion in the National Park System.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Manhattan Project Na-  
5       tional Historical Park Study Act of 2003”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The Manhattan Project, the World War II  
2           effort to develop and construct the first atomic  
3           bomb, represents an extraordinary era in the history  
4           of United States and the world that—

5                   (A) included remarkable achievements in  
6           science and engineering made possible by inno-  
7           vative partnerships among many Federal agen-  
8           cies, universities, and private industries; and

9                   (B) culminated in a transformation of the  
10          global society by ushering in the atomic age.

11          (2) The Manhattan Project was an unprece-  
12          dented \$2,200,000,000, 3-year, top-secret effort that  
13          employed approximately 130,000 men and women at  
14          its peak.

15          (3) The facilities of the Manhattan Project con-  
16          tain historic resources that are crucial for the inter-  
17          pretation of the Manhattan Project, including facili-  
18          ties in—

19                   (A) Oak Ridge, Tennessee (where the first  
20          full-scale nuclear reactor and enrichment facili-  
21          ties were built);

22                   (B) Hanford, Washington (where the first  
23          large-scale reactor for plutonium was built);  
24          and

1 (C) Los Alamos, New Mexico (where the  
2 atomic bombs were designed and built).

3 (4) The Secretary has recognized the national  
4 significance in our Nation's history of Manhattan  
5 Project facilities in the study area by—

6 (A) designating the Los Alamos Scientific  
7 Laboratory in the State of New Mexico as a  
8 National Historic Landmark in 1965 and add-  
9 ing the Laboratory to the National Register of  
10 Historic Places in 1966;

11 (B) designating the X-10 Graphite Reac-  
12 tor at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in  
13 the State of Tennessee as a National Historic  
14 Landmark in 1965 and adding the Reactor to  
15 the National Register of Historic Places in  
16 1966;

17 (C) adding the Oak Ridge Historic District  
18 to the National Register of Historic Places in  
19 1991;

20 (D) adding the B Reactor at the Hanford  
21 Site in the State of Washington to the National  
22 Register of Historic Places in 1992; and

23 (E) by adding the Oak Ridge Turnpike,  
24 Bear Creek Road, and Bethel Valley Road  
25 Checking Stations in the State of Tennessee to

1           the National Register of Historic Places in  
2           1992.

3           (5) The Hanford Site has been nominated by  
4           the Richland Operations Office of the Department of  
5           Energy and the Washington State Historic Preser-  
6           vation Office for addition to the National Register of  
7           Historic Places.

8           (6) A panel of experts convened by the Advisory  
9           Council on Historic Preservation in 2001 reported  
10          that the development and use of the atomic bomb  
11          during World War II has been called “the single  
12          most significant event of the 20th Century” and rec-  
13          ommended that various sites be formally established  
14          “as a collective unit administered for preservation,  
15          commemoration, and public interpretation in co-  
16          operation with the National Park Service”.

17          (7) The Advisory Council on Historic Preserva-  
18          tion reported in 2001 that the preservation and in-  
19          terpretation of the historic sites of the Manhattan  
20          Project offer significant value as destinations for do-  
21          mestic and international tourists.

22          (8) Preservation and interpretation of the Man-  
23          hattan Project historic sites are necessary for  
24          present and future generations to fully appreciate

1 the extraordinary and complex consequences of the  
2 Manhattan Project.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
6 the Secretary of the Interior.

7 (2) STUDY.—The term “study” means the  
8 study authorized by section 4(a).

9 (3) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”  
10 means the following Manhattan Project sites:

11 (A) Los Alamos National Laboratory and  
12 townsite in the State of New Mexico.

13 (B) The Hanford Site in the State of  
14 Washington.

15 (C) Oak Ridge Laboratory in the State of  
16 Tennessee.

17 (D) Other significant sites relating to the  
18 Manhattan Project determined by the Secretary  
19 to be appropriate for inclusion in the study.

20 **SEC. 4. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.**

21 (a) STUDY.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct  
23 a special resource study of the study area to assess  
24 the national significance, suitability, and feasibility  
25 of designating the various historic sites and struc-

1       tures of the study area as a unit of the National  
2       Park System. Except as provided by subsection (b),  
3       the study shall be conducted in accordance with sec-  
4       tion 8(c) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–  
5       5(c)).

6           (2) ADMINISTRATION.—In conducting the  
7       study, the Secretary shall—

8           (A) consult with the Secretary of Energy,  
9           the Secretary of Defense, State and local offi-  
10          cials, tribal governments, and representatives of  
11          affected communities and organizations; and

12          (B) evaluate, in coordination with the Sec-  
13          retary of Energy and the Secretary of Defense,  
14          the compatibility of designating the study area  
15          or any part of the study area as a national his-  
16          toric site or national historical park with main-  
17          taining security, productivity and management  
18          goals of the Department of Energy and the De-  
19          partment of Defense, and public health and  
20          safety.

21          (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
22       on which funds are made available to carry out the study,  
23       the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that de-

- 1 scribes the findings of the study and any conclusions and
- 2 recommendations of the Secretary.

